Township of Monroe NEWS
Volume 2
2022
TOWN HALL | 1 Municipal Plaza | Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831 | www.monroetwp.com

No Increase in the 2022 Municipal Tax Rate

In Second Year of Office, Mayor Dalina Maintains Flat Taxes

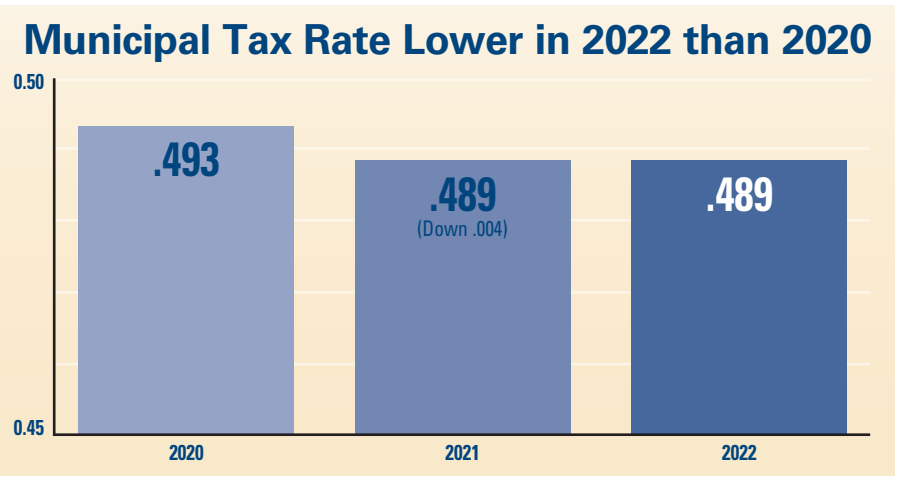
The 2022 municipal budget keeps the municipal tax rate flat at $.489 per $100 assessed value, the same rate as 2021.

This is the second consecutive year without an increase to the municipal tax rate and continues Mayor Stephen Dalina's focus on affordability, property tax relief, and ensuring Monroe remains with the second lowest overall effective tax rate in Middlesex County for the coming year.

As part of the new spending plan, residential water and sewer rates will remain flat and continue to be among the lowest in the entire region.

"Between the impacts of Covid-19, and some economic uncertainty, many residents have tightened their belts, and my job as Mayor is to do the same to keep our community affordable," Mayor Dalina said. "This is my second budget as your new mayor, and I have painstakingly evaluated our balance sheet, our spending, our debt, and made the adjustments necessary to develop a responsible budget proposal that provides services but keeps municipal taxes flat."

With additional state school funding and federal grants, as well as a reduction in municipal debt, the overall town-wide tax rate (county, school, municipal, and fire districts) will slightly increase by about 0.0065% - less than 1%. Monroe Township continues to have the second overall lowest tax rate of the 25 municipalities in Middlesex County.



Among the factors that led to a municipal flat tax rate are:

A $13 million decrease in the Township's statutory debt over

Continued on page 5

State Earmarks $1 Million for Flood Mitigation at Rossmoor

Mayor Dalina Expresses Appreciation to Greenstein, DeAngelo and Benson

Story on page 4

Pictured left to right: Rossmoor Homeowners Association Finance Director John Craven, Vice President Sal Gurriero and President and CEO Dan Jolly; Monroe Township Mayor Stephen Dalina; Senator Linda Greenstein; Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo; Middlesex County Commissioner Leslie Koppel and Assemblyman Daniel Benson.

Farmer's Market Continues to September 15

If you haven't stopped by the Farmer's Market this summer at the Monroe Township Public Library, there's still time. The market runs every Thursday from 2-7 p.m. at 4 Municipal Plaza through Sept. 15.

Stop by for the freshest produce in the area, while supporting local agriculture. There's also baked goods, coffee, pierogi, pasta and other great treats. ■

TOWN HALL

1 Municipal Plaza • Monroe Township, NJ 08831
www.monroetwp.com

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor:
Stephen Dalina . . . . . .*sdalina@monroetwp.com*
Council President:
Miriam Cohen . . . . . .*mcohen@monroetwp.com*
Council Vice President:
Terence Van Dzura . . . . . .*tvandzura@monroetwp.com*
Council Members:
Elizabeth Schneider . . . . .*eschneider@monroetwp.com*
Rupa Siegel . . . . . .*rsiegel@monroetwp.com*
Charles Dipierro . . . . . .*cdipierro@monroetwp.com*

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Township Main Number . . . . . .(732) 521-4400
Animal Control . . . . . .(732) 521-0222
Construction Office . . . . . .(732) 656-4585
Court Administrator . . . . . .(732) 521-4020
Township Engineer . . . . . .(732) 605-9440
EMS & First Aid (non-emergency) (732) 521-1880
Health Department . . . .(732) 521-4400 ext. 192
Environmental Protection .(732) 521-4400 ext. 118
Monroe Township Library . . . . . .(732) 521-5000
Utilities Department . . . . . .(732) 521-1700
Office of Senior Services . . . . . .(609) 448-7140
Parks Department . . . . . .(732) 723-5000
Police (non-emergency) . . . . . .(732) 521-0222
Public Works . . . . . .(732) 656-4575
Recreation . . . . . .(732) 723-5000
Recycling . . . . . .(732) 656-4575
Tax Collector . . . . . .(732) 521-4405
Township Clerk . . . . . .(732) 656-4573
Traffic Safety . . . . . .(732) 521-0222 ext. 126
Transportation . . . . . .(609) 443-0511

Township of Monroe NEWS

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Honoring Mayor Gerald W. and Carole Tamburro

In July, at the Monroe Township Public Library, friends and family of the late Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro and his late wife, Carole, gathered for a dedication ceremony of the newly constructed Tamburro Garden, honoring their commitment to the community.

Mayor Stephen Dalina and other township officials join the Tamburro family to dedicate a garden in honor of the late Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro and his wife, Carole.

The couple, married for 60 years, moved to Monroe in 1997. Mayor Tamburro embarked on 19 years of community service to the Township, with his wife always by his side. Mrs. Tamburro died in 2019; the mayor passed away in 2020.

The Tamburro Garden features a new pergola and butterfly garden.

"I want to thank the family for thinking of the library as a place to honor both their parents. I cannot think of a better way actually, than to have this garden," said Leah Wagner, director of the Monroe Public Library. "The mayor and Carole were wonderful library supporters."

When the Mayor passed away, his family asked for memorial contributions to the library in lieu of flowers.

The butterfly garden is certified as a monarch butterfly waystation, which provides necessary resources for them to thrive and migrate. ■

Clarification: In the spring issue of the *Monroe News*, it was incorrectly reported that the Encore community donated more than 90 bags of supplies to the people of Ukraine.

The accurate number is more than 500 bags of supplies.

A Message from Mayor Stephen Dalina

It has been a very busy summer in Monroe, as a number of infrastructure programs have been completed and many more are in the works.

The warm season is the ideal time to undertake many of these important initiatives; I am pleased to report that projects are being completed on time and on budget. I am also grateful to our partners at the state and federal levels, coordinating (and funding) a number of these key improvement projects in Monroe.

We are pleased to open the Township's very first inclusive playground, located at the Monroe Township Soccer Complex on Prospect Plains Road, designed for people of all abilities. I would like to express my appreciation to the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development program, which contributed $166,000 toward such a worthwhile project for our community.

This summer, workers also paved North State Home Road, Lower Matchaponix and a section of Spotswood Gravel Hill Road through a state grant of $609,250. In addition, Middlesex County is funding the paving of portions of Applegarth Road, Buckelew Avenue, Prospect Plains Road and Spotswood Englishtown Road. There is also additional repair work at Spotswood Englishtown Road being planned.

Moreover, Monroe was able to upgrade the HVAC system at the public library on Municipal Plaza during this very hot summer. We secured a state grant to fund half of the $500,000 project, I'm proud to note.

Other important projects were launched this summer. Monroe is undertaking its largest road upgrade project in its history, with a plan to pave five miles of municipal roads in our local neighborhoods. In addition, we are using a state local freight grant to pave Costco Drive.

We have also started construction of an outdoor pavilion at the Monroe Senior Center on Halsey Reed Road to provide more shade for senior programming.

Monroe is also focused on the future – this fall and beyond.

We are now in the design phase for restrooms at Veterans Park on Avenue K, as well as planning the replacement of restrooms and concessions at James Monroe Park on Dey Grove Road.

Monroe is also finalizing the architectural plans for a 4,500 square foot expansion of our police headquarters. This is a long-awaited and much-needed project, as the Municipal Plaza building was constructed in 1984 and the needs of our police department have evolved over the years.

I am very pleased with the progress, as we continue to work together to enhance the infrastructure and many recreational offerings in Monroe. ■

Cultural Arts Commission Announces Fall Programs

September 9 at **7 p.m.**
Queen Flash:
Tribute to Queen
Monroe Township
High School

October 8 through
October 15
Juried Art Show
Monroe Township Library
during open hours.

November 13 at **3 p.m.**
Salute to
American Music
Murasco Theater

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Monroe Awarded $105,240 Clean Communities Grant from DEP

An $11,000 increase from previous year

Monroe Township is receiving a $105,240.47 Clean Communities grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Solid Waste Division.

Clean Communities grants are intended to help municipalities and counties across New Jersey promote volunteer and paid clean-up events, purchase equipment, support enforcement activities and educational opportunities.

"The Township Council and I are always looking for ways to push Monroe Township toward a cleaner, greener future," said Mayor Dalina. "Our Department of Public Works conducts numerous programs aimed at keeping our town litter-free throughout the year. It is through programs like Clean Communities that we can keep our streets, open space, recreation areas and township grounds clear of litter and debris."

This year's grant reflects an increase of $11,000 from the grant received in 2021.

Monroe Township is the fourth-largest recipient in all of Middlesex County and one of the largest in the state. This grant award allows the Township to continue to improve upon its ongoing community engagement and education initiatives.

"Monroe has consistently been one of the top municipalities in the state in regard to fighting litter," said JoAnn Gemenden, executive director, New Jersey Clean Communities Council.

"We work closely with Monroe Township officials to ensure that state funds are continually maximized to develop and implement anti-litter education and programming in Monroe, as well as to coordinate local clean-ups," she said. "We are confident that Monroe Township will use the increased funding in a smart, strategic way."

The Township awarded more than $4,000 so far this year, funded by the Clean Communities grant, to Monroe-based non-profit and community-service groups through its Mini-grant program that offers $500 per group for running localized clean-up efforts.

Interested organizations can register for litter patrol opportunities at Township approved sites by contacting Clean Communities Coordinator, Joe Slomian, at 732-656-4575.

Through the grant program, the NJDEP awarded nearly $19.1 million to eligible municipalities and $2.3 million to counties across the state, basing its allocations on statistical reports that outline the number of housing units and municipally owned roadway mileage in a respective area. Grants are funded by a legislated user-fee on manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors that produce litter-generating products.

For a complete list of municipal and county grant awards, visit www.njclean.org. ■

Monroe relies on State Clean Communities funding to coordinate the volunteer litter clean-ups through the year.

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Flood Mitigation *Cont. from page 1*

State leaders, at the urging of Township and Middlesex County officials, have earmarked $1 million in the state's fiscal '23 budget for flood mitigation programs at the Rossmoor adult living community.

It was one year ago, on August 22, 2021, that Tropical Storm Henri hit Monroe, with more than 170 households impacted by flooding. The vast majority of those homes were in Rossmoor.

The Township responded with a number of resources and organizations to assist impacted residents, setting up the Office of Emergency Management team's command center in the Rossmoor clubhouse. On August 27, 2021, the Township hosted a resource and assistance fair to connect residents with agencies, organizations and non-profits on the local, county and state levels that provided assistance.

At the time, during a tour of flooded homes with Gov. Phil Murphy, Mayor Stephen Dalina pledged to advocate for state funding that would be used for future flood mitigation. The mayor turned to the 14th district state legislators – Sen. Linda Greenstein

Continued on page 15

2022 Municipal Budget

Continued from page 1

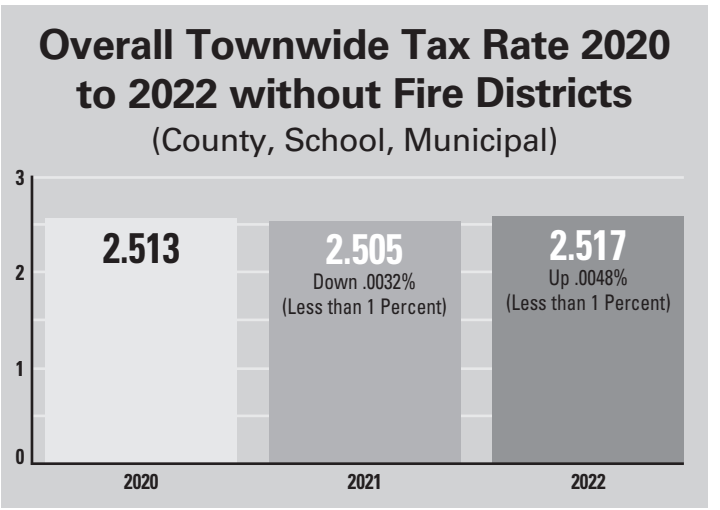
the past five years, resulting in a $600,000 decline in the Township's debt service.

With a strong AA+ bond rating, the Township refinanced existing debt, saving several million dollars.

The Township aggressively pursued federal CARES Act funding, American Recovery Act Funding, as well as State grant funding, which helped keep tax rates flat and provided a modest surplus increase.

Monroe expanded shared services efforts.

Commercial ratables are being added, thus stabilizing residential municipal taxes for future years.



Monroe residents also deserve credit for the town's budget success, Mayor Dalina said.

"Despite the challenges many of our residents faced this past year, remarkably, the Township achieved more than a 99% tax collection rate, which helps keep taxes low and stable," he added. "I would also like to thank the Township Council for their partnership in managing this and previous Township budgets, as the municipality remains on solid financial footing." ■

Town Leaders Honor 2022 MTPD Youth Academy

In early August, the Monroe Township Council meeting opened with a ceremony honoring graduates of the 2022 MTPD Youth Academy in the presence of their family and friends.

Each graduate endured a week of rigorous training in July that covered a variety of topics ranging from traffic safety, firearms safety, crime scene investigations, physical fitness and more.

Members of Township Council commended the graduates on their hard work and thanked the Police Department for preparing a superb program. Congratulations to all MTPD Youth Academy graduates! ■

Monroe Celebrates National Night Out

The Monroe Township National Night Out was held August 2 at Thompson Park.

Monroe's first responders and other community organizations provided information and education to hundreds of residents and visitors.

There was food, fun and games for everyone. First Responders, the Library, the Department of Public Works, the recreation department and representatives from the many commissions and organizations that serve our town were present.

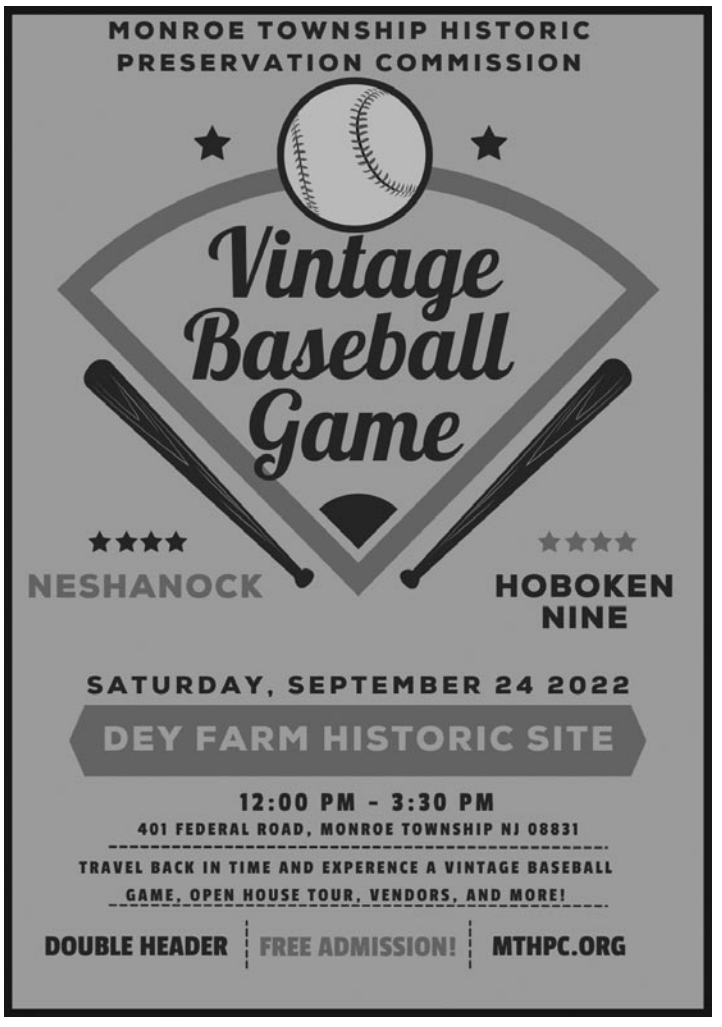
A very special "thank you" to the Monroe Township Police Department and all participants for being a part of another very informative, educational, and fun evening for adults and children of all ages. ■

Welcome to Monroe

Mayor Dalina and members of the Township Council welcomed Syndicate Productions at a ribbon cutting this summer at 317 Forsgate Dr.

Syndicate Productions is a film production company that produces advertisements, music videos, commercials, and teaches hands-on academic classes for young filmmakers.

Syndicate Productions comprises a talented team of directors, writers, editors, cinematographers and crew to take a single idea from pre-production all the way to the big screen. Whether it's an advertisement for social media or the latest, greatest music video, Syndicate Productions brings your idea to life. The company owners, Vinny Arizzo and Jesse Shea, are graduates of the Monroe Township school system. Learn more at syndicateproductions.org ■



Mayor Expresses Appreciation to State Officials for Supporting $2 Billion in Property Tax Relief

Funds to be released in fiscal '23

Mayor Stephen Dalina is expressing appreciation to Gov. Phil Murphy and legislative leaders, who plan to expand property tax relief to reach more than 2 million homeowners, following an unprecedented $7 billion state surplus.

The expanded ANCHOR Property Tax relief program would provide $2 billion in relief to both owners and renters, Murphy said on June 15, in a joint event with Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Senate President Nicholas Scutari.

"It's great to be heard. We've been steadily urging state leaders to make Monroe more affordable for our residents," Dalina said. "The ANCHOR program offers real and meaningful tax relief for our property taxpayers, reaching into our middle-class communities and making a substantial, meaningful effect."

For 870,000 homeowners with incomes up to $150,000, they should expect a savings up to $1,500; while an estimated 290,000 households with incomes between $150,000 and $250,000 would get $1,000 in tax relief. Moreover, 900,000 renters with incomes up to $150,000 would receive up to $450 relief to help offset rent increases.

The ANCHOR Property Tax Relief Program was initially announced in March, a cornerstone in the governor's proposed fiscal '23 budget. It is expected the state will send out checks next spring, toward the end of the budget year. The mayor is hoping the process can be expedited, as many need tax relief now.

"This is a historic moment. The state is using this cash windfall to provide substantial property tax relief," Dalina said. "I am pleased that Governor Phil Murphy and the state Legislature have heard our call to use this rare time in

our state's budget history to do the right thing for our overburdened taxpayers."

Dalina also voiced appreciation to state lawmakers for the passage of the Retirement Income Exemption, Senior Freeze and Homestead Rebate programs, as well as increased school funding for the Monroe Township School District.

The Township is awaiting details from the state about the timing of the release of funds, which must occur by June 2023. Residents will be updated when more information is available. ■

The Monroe News reaches every home, business and post office box in Monroe.

Can You Smell Autumn in the Air?

Ok, maybe not just yet. But you still want to mark your calendar for Sunday, Oct. 23 from noon to 4 p.m., as Monroe celebrates the 28th-annual Octoberfest, taking place at the community center at 120 Monmouth Rd.

Bring your favorite plaid shirt and pumpkin spice latte, as you enjoy food, crafts, music, games, rides and even a little magic. It is fun for the whole family and, as always, admission is free.

Monroe Honors the Supreme Sacrifice of Residents

On May 30, Monroe Township paid tribute to the brave service men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to our country during two Memorial Day ceremonies.

Mayor Dalina and members of The Monroe Township Council along with Commander Jack Kirschenbaum and Legion Post #522 held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Township Municipal Building, followed by an equally-moving program at the Memorial Monument at Veterans Park on Avenue K.

Thank you to all who served.

Township of Monroe
Middlesex County, NJ

Mayor Dalina's Wellness Campaign

COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

All Ages Welcome!

JOIN MAYOR DALINA & THE POLICE BIKE UNIT

Friday September 30, 2022
6:00 P.M.
Monroe Township Senior Center

There will be a 1 & 4 mile option, Helmet Required

For Information Call
732-521-4400 ext. 114

A Summer Treat with the Mayor

On July 21, Mayor Dalina delivered a cool treat to the campers at MTSEPA, all a part of another fun-filled camp season. Thanks to the Recreation Department and all of our wonderful camp counselors for making the Summer of '22 so memorable for Monroe youngsters.

Tune into Monroe Township news and information at Comcast Channel 28 and Verizon Channels 32 and 40.

A Standing Ovation

The Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission, in partnership with The Mighty Oak Players, presented "Once Upon A Mattress," on July 21-24 to the delight of audiences. ■

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Save $50 on any Annual Home Service
This offer is available for new clients only and cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. One time services are not eligible for this offer. Expires 9/30/2022.

A Summer of Music and Fun

All would agree: the Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission's Music in the Park Summer 2022 Concert Series was a winner.

With the cool summer breezes at the open grove gazebo on the lake in Thompson Park, guests enjoyed upbeat, feel-good music on every Thursday until August 11, offering a musical journey from Rock to Opera. ■

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A Special Honor

Monroe celebrated Independence Day at Thompson Park on July 4 at the Recreation Department's annual fireworks display. Monroe resident and two-time Special Olympian, Rhea Alathur, served as honorary Mayor and Mistress of Ceremonies for the festivities.

Car Thefts are on the Rise in NJ; Lock Your Doors; Bring in Your Key Fobs

Car theft has spiked in New Jersey, increasing roughly 25% year to date over 2021 numbers.

Monroe police say there are many basic ways to keep your vehicle safe, such as locking your doors, removing your keys from the vehicle, closing the windows, parking in well-lit areas and installing anti-theft devices, immobilizer systems and tracking technology.

Please be on the lookout for any suspicious persons at all hours of the day; if you see groups of individuals walking up and down streets, peering into vehicles, or trying door handles, please call the police at 732-521-0222 so officers can be dispatched. ■

Scan for an important crime prevention video.

SCAN ME

Township Releases Draft Master Plan for Public Review

On August 25, the Township's professional planners presented a draft of the updated Master Plan to the planning board and residents in attendance.

This presentation came after more than a year of review, discussion and public input from Monroe residents. Thousands of residents participated in the Township's public survey, providing more than 80,000 responses and comments to drive amendments to the Master Plan.

A public hearing to formally adopt the plan is slated for this fall. To encourage even more participation, Mayor Dalina directed the Master Plan Sub-Committee and planning consultants to go beyond legal requirements and present this draft on August 25 to glean more public comment prior to the formal adoption.

"I am excited about the future of Monroe and am pleased with the amount of valuable input we have received through this yearlong process, in which we engaged the public at every turn," Mayor Dalina said. "This has been a very transparent process and we're taking extra steps to make sure our residents are heard. I am looking forward to the finished product that I'm sure will be truly representative of this entire community."

Among the key features of the new Master Plan: Managing residential development, preserving environmentally sensitive areas, encouraging appropriate commercial development, targeting hundreds of acres for additional open space and recommending five new walking trails and three to five new recreation opportunities. The plan also recommends studies to assess traffic operations across 15 miles of major roadways and at least eight major intersections and identifies farmland parcels for preservation. ■

Learn more here:

https://monroetwp.com/index.php/boards-commissions/planning-board

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Happy 100th Birthday!

Philip Zipser
February 28, 2021

Margaret Slaten
June 13, 2022

Theresa Maglio
July 13, 2022

Sara Milman
July 23, 2022

Ruth Harrison
August 19, 2022

Mayor Dalina presented a birthday proclamation to 101-year-old resident Philip Zipser at a residents association meeting at Monroe Village on Tuesday, August 16th, 2022.

Hello Fall! September 2022 Center Activities

Pre-Register for all programs > REQUIRED EACH MONTH<

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 *9:00 Bocce Ball* *10:30 Book Club* **10:30 Where the Money Goes** 12:30 Mixed Watercolor **2:00 Quincy Jones**	**2** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* 9:00 Cardio Dance & Sculpt *9:30 Canasta* *10:30 Harmonica* **10:30 Coffee & Tea** 12:30 Watercolor Experience **2:00 Ken Ryan & Linda Garofolo**
5 HAPPY LABOR DAY Office Closed	**6** 8:45 Gentle Mat Yoga *9:00 Bocce Ball* *9:00 Chorus* **10:00 Mah Jongg Refresher ($)** **10:30 Frederic Church's Olana (Z)** **11:00 The Wobble Screening** **2:00 South African Music**	**7** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* **10:30 Cognitive Skills** 11:00 Raise the Barre *12:15 Duplicate Bridge* *1:00 Parkinsons Support* *2:00 Cribbage* **2:00 Phyllis Chappell**	**8** *9:00 Bocce Ball* **10:00 Art Expression ($)** **10:30 Color in the Everyday** 12:30 Mixed Watercolor **2:00 Maggie Worsdale**	**9** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* *9:30 Canasta* *10:30 Harmonica* **10:30 Chef Mike** 12:30 Watercolor Experience **2:00 Off-R-Rockers**
12 *8:30 Walking Club* **9:00 Cardio Blast ($)** *9:30 Drop-In Bridge* **10:00 Total Body Reset ($)** **10:00 Robinson Artshop ($)** **10:30 Downloadable Content** **11:00 Gentle Stretch ($)** *1:00 Mah Jongg* *1:00 Table Tennis* *1:00 Yarn It* **2:00 Hap Ortutay** **3:30 Meditation ($)**	**13** **8:45 Gentle Mat Yoga ($)** *9:00 Bocce Ball* *9:00 Chorus* **9:00 AARP Smart Driver Class** 10:00 Mah Jongg Refresher **10:15 Drums Alive ($)** **10:30 Zimmerli Art Museum (Z)** *11:00 Green Thumbs* **11:30 Drums Alive ($)** **2:00 The Bronx**	**14** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* **9:00 Total Toning ($)** **10:00 Move & Groove ($)** **10:30 Breath Control** **11:00 Raise the Barre ($)** *12:15 Duplicate Bridge* *2:00 Cribbage* **2:00 Julia Says, Bon Appétit** **3:30 Int'l Folk Dance ($)**	**15** *9:00 Bocce Ball* **9:00 Chair Yoga ($)** 10:00 Art Expression **10:00 Body Works ($)** **10:30 Square Dancing** **11:00 Tai Chi ($)** **11:00 Community Pass** **2:00 David Aaron Music**	**16** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* **9:00 Zumba ($)** *9:30 Canasta* **10:00 Fun Friday ($)** *10:30 Harmonica* **10:30 CBD Facts** **11:00 Qi Gong ($)** **2:00 Classic Songs from Classic Films**
19 *8:30 Walking Club* 9:00 Cardio Blast *9:30 Drop-In Bridge* 10:00 Total Body Reset **10:00 Robinson Artshop ($)** **10:30 Why We Wobble** 11:00 Gentle Stretch *1:00 Mah Jongg* *1:00 Table Tennis* *1:00 Yarn It* **2:00 Tom Pizzi** 3:30 Meditation	**20** 8:45 Gentle Mat Yoga *9:00 Bocce Ball* *9:00 Chorus* 10:00 Mah Jongg Refresher 10:15 Drums Alive *10:30 Bereavement Group* **10:30 Indigo Shibori** **10:30 The Seeing Eye (Z)** 11:30 Drums Alive **1:00 Goodbye Summer BBQ** **2:30 Healthy Bites** *5:30 W.O.W.*	**21** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* **9:00 Senior Health & Fitness Walk** 9:00 Total Toning 10:00 Move & Groove **10:30 Eight Dimensions of Wellness** 11:00 Raise the Barre *12:15 Duplicate Bridge* *2:00 Diabetes Support* **2:00 Shore Bet Band** 3:30 Int'l Folk Dance	**22** *9:00 Bocce Ball* 9:00 Chair Yoga 10:00 Art Expression 10:00 Body Works **10:30 Watershed Protection in Your Own Backyard** 11:00 Tai Chi **2:00 The Beatles**	**23** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* 9:00 Zumba *9:30 Canasta* 10:00 Fun Friday *10:30 Harmonica* **10:30 The Girl I Kept to Myself** 11:00 Qi Gong 12:00 T.A.P. (MTHS) *1:00 L.G.B.T. Socialize With Me* **2:00 Jerry's Travels**
26 **No programs today** Shana Tova!	**27** 8:45 Gentle Mat Yoga *9:00 Bocce Ball* *9:00 Chorus* 10:00 Mah Jongg Refresher 10:15 Drums Alive **10:30 Famous TV Detective Shows (Z)** 11:30 Drums Alive **2:00 Redhawk American Arts Council**	**28** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* 9:00 Total Toning 10:00 Move & Groove **10:30 Judge for Yourself** 11:00 Raise the Barre *12:15 Duplicate Bridge* **2:00 Michael & Ted Present** 3:30 Int'l Folk Dance	**29** *9:00 Bocce Ball* 9:00 Chair Yoga 10:00 Art Expression 10:00 Body Works **10:00 Foot & Ankle 101** 11:00 Tai Chi **1:30 Murder Mystery: *Mind Over Murder***	**30** *8:30 Walking Club* *9:00 Cornhole & Ladder Toss* 9:00 Zumba *9:30 Canasta* 10:00 Fun Friday *10:30 Harmonica* **10:30 TED Talks** 11:00 Qi Gong **2:00 Ali & Heidi Duo**

Upcoming Events for Senior Center Members

Tuesday, October 18 at 2 p.m.

Meet Manlow – the Mentalist and Memory Expert

What do you call a performer who left Regis Philbin speechless? You call him Manlow. Manlow is a total showman. Manlow adds the best ingredients of mystery, suspense, and humor into his multi-faceted act. You will witness fascinating predictions, as well as his uncanny ability to read people's minds, and miraculously, reveal personal, intimate details about their lives.

Friday, October 21 at 7 p.m.

Lets Be Frank Dance Band

Enjoy songs that you know by heart and love, as well as some you may have not heard in years. The band plays a variety of hit songs from 1954 through today.

Tuesday, December 20 at 2 p.m.

Paris "The Hip Hop Juggler"

Paris has been dazzling audiences with his brand of juggling for over a decade. His combination of style, interactive stunts, witty comedy, and world class juggling talent is sure to dazzle. In addition to bringing his talents to *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*, *Sesame Street*, and The White House, The Hip Hop Juggler has also gained critical acclaim for his juggling instruction.

A Playground for Everyone to Enjoy

This summer, Monroe marked the opening of the township's very first inclusive playground, located at the Monroe Township Soccer Complex on Prospect Plains Road. The accessible playground – designed for people of all abilities – is a collaborative endeavor with the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development program, which contributed $166,000 toward the project in this county park.

As with all great things to celebrate in Monroe, township officials joined with local residents and plenty of children for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 7, which Mayor Dalina was proud to lead. ■

The Monroe Township Soccer Complex was home to a joyous ceremony this summer as Township residents officially opened an accessible playground for people of all abilities.

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September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 ***Mayor Cup Bocce - 9:00am*** Hiking Club - 6:00pm Bootcamp Inferno - 6:30pm	2 Zumba Toning - 9:30am	3 Cricket - 7:00am Full Body Blast - 8:30am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am Cheer Practice - 10:00am Chinese Folk Dance - 3:00pm
4 Closed for Labor Day	5 Closed for Labor Day	6 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am	7 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Total Body Fusion - 6:30pm	8 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm Hiking Club - 6:00pm Bootcamp Inferno - 6:30pm	9 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am	10 Cricket - 7:00am Full Body Blast - 8:30am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am Cheer Practice - 10:00am Chinese Folk Dance - 3:00pm
11 Cricket - 7:00am Men's Basketball - 8:00am Yoga - 10:00am Open Gym - 10:00am	12 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm Rec Advisory Board—7:00pm	13 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm Baseball Meeting - 6:00pm	14 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Scrapbooking - 11:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Total Body Fusion - 6:30pm COPD Support Group - 6:30pm Girls Softball Meeting - 7:00pm	15 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm Hiking Club - 6:00pm Bootcamp Inferno - 6:30pm	16 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Zumba Toning - 9:30am	17 Cricket - 7:00am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am Cheer Practice - 10:00am Chinese Folk Dance - 3:00pm
18 Cricket - 7:00am Men's Basketball - 8:00am Yoga - 10:00am Open Gym - 10:00am	19 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm	20 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm VFW Meeting - 6:30pm	21 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Senior Lunch & Learn - 11:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Total Body Fusion - 6:30pm	22 ***Mayor Cup Shuffleboard - 9:00am*** Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm Hiking Club - 6:00pm Bootcamp Inferno - 6:30pm	23 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Zumba Toning - 9:30am	24 Cricket - 7:00am Full Body Blast - 8:30am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am Cheer Practice - 10:00am Chinese Folk Dance - 3:00pm
25 Cricket - 7:00am Men's Basketball - 8:00am Yoga - 10:00am Open Gym - 10:00am	26 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm	27 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	28 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Scrapbooking - 11:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Total Body Fusion - 6:30pm	29 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm Hiking Club - 6:00pm Bootcamp Inferno - 6:30pm	30 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Zumba Toning - 9:30am	

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Full Body Blast - 8:30am Cheer Practice - 9:30am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am Open Gym - 2:00pm
2 Men's Basketball - 8:00am Yoga - 10:00am	3 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm	4 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	5 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm	6 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	7 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Zumba Toning - 9:30am	8 Full Body Blast - 8:30am Cheer Practice - 9:30am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am Open Gym - 2:00pm
9 Men's Basketball - 8:00am Yoga - 10:00am	10 Closed for Columbus Day	11 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm Baseball Meeting - 6:00pm	12 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Scrapbooking - 11:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Girls Softball Meeting - 7:00pm	13 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	14 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Zumba Toning - 9:30am	15 Open Gym - 9:00am Saturday Cardio & Tone - 9:45am
16 Men's Basketball - 8:00am Yoga - 10:00am	17 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm Rec Advisory Board—7:00pm	18 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm VFW Meeting - 6:30pm	19 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Senior Lunch & Learn - 11:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm	20 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	21 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Zumba Toning - 9:30am	22 Cheer Practice - 9:30am Open Gym - 2:00pm
23 ***Octoberfest - 12:00pm***	24 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm	25 Hiking Club - 9:00am Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	26 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am Scrapbooking - 11:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm	27 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Cheer Practice - 5:00pm	28 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am	29 ***Halloween Event - TBA*** Blood Drive - 8:00am
30 Men's Basketball - 8:00am	31 Pickleball - 9:00am Table Tennis - 9:00am After-School Open Gym - 2:00pm Low Impact Aerobics - 6:30pm Volleyball - 7:00pm					

Retirements

Wishing Diane Well

Monroe is extending its best wishes to Diane Kotlarchick, who retired in May after 25 years of service to the Monroe Township Police Department in the Public Safety Telecommunications department and the Office of Emergency Management.

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your dedicated service!

Mitch Heads Cross-Country

Mitchell "Mitch" Elias worked for Monroe Township as the Tax Assessor for 26 years. He began working as the head of the Tax Assessor's Office in 1996.

His next adventure will take him around the country as Elias explores the United States.

"I can honestly say I enjoyed coming to work every day," he said. "I would like to thank the past and present Mayor, Council, Administration and co-workers for making Monroe Township municipal offices such a pleasant place to work."

John Retired in May

Lt. John Strych started his career in Monroe as a police dispatcher in 1993. In 1997, he was sworn in as a full-time Police Officer. Over the next 17 years, John was assigned to the Patrol Division and the Traffic Division.

In 2014, John was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Five years later, he was promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to the Patrol Division as the Division Commander.

In the last three years, John was assigned to the Administrative Division as the Division Commander. He transitioned the Township's emergency services to a new radio system and was in charge of applying for grants so that all officers could have body-worn cameras. He retired in July. ■

Monroe Updates Residents on Energy Aggregation Program

Monroe Township residents enrolled in the municipal Community Energy Aggregation (MTCEA) program have saved more than $16 million since the 2013 program inception.

The Township is one of only a few municipalities in the state to sustain eight uninterrupted years (four, two-year contracts) of its energy aggregation program.

Last fall, the Township launched a competitive procurement process to obtain a replacement energy supply contract in anticipation of the December 2021 expiration of the "Round Four" contract with Constellation New Energy.

Unfortunately, proposals received were even higher than the JCP&L tariff price.

Therefore, the Township was unable to award a new contract and all program participants were transitioned back to JCP&L in December 2021.

In the interest of helping residents save money on their electric bills and reestablishing an energy supply contract, the Township once again launched a Request for Proposal process for a new two-year contract in June 2022. As a result of current energy market instability, the three proposals received all were significantly higher than the current JCP&L tariff rate.

At this point, the JCP&L tariff rate is the lowest rate available. The Township remains hopeful that conditions related to the energy market improve and the MTCEA program can be reinstated sometime in the future.

The Township plans to seek bids at the end of this year for a new contract that would begin in 2023. Updates will be provided as they become available.

In the meantime, residents are urged to use caution with solicitations from third party suppliers that may charge much higher prices than JCP&L (the state-regulated utility) and often have clauses which drive up rates.

For residents enrolled with a third-party electric energy supplier, please check your utility bill and consider returning to JCP&L if you are paying more than the tariff/price to compare.

Residents seeking additional information should contact program coordinator Harold Klein at 732-521-4400, Ext. 135. ■

Free Energy Efficiency Kits Available

New Jersey residential customers of JCP&L are eligible to receive a free energy efficiency kit. It will be shipped directly to your home. Visit https://jcpl-kits.energysavenj.com/ or call 855-823-4298 to request.

SCAN ME

A Bountiful Harvest at the Monroe Community Garden

The Garden State is known for its community gardens, offering low-cost access for the public to enjoy the outdoor scenery and practice their green thumbs, including one right here in Middlesex County.

The Township offers a two-acre, 176-plot garden located at 124 Applegarth Road. Despite a very dry summer, our community gardeners are reporting a plentiful crop.

Many members donate their leftovers to organizations that combat food insecurity, including the Monroe Pantry and The Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services (MCFOODS). ■

Crops were plentiful at the Monroe Community garden this summer, despite a lack of rain. Residents tended to their plots with regular watering, providing excess fruits and vegetables for local food pantries.

Flood Mitigation *Continued from page 4*

and Assemblymen Wayne DeAngelo and Dan Benson – who advocated for Monroe during the state's budget process this spring.

"Our state legislators have always been there for Monroe, to support us in any way they can," Dalina said. "Through their persistence and focus on helping the people of Rossmoor impacted by this terrible flooding, $1 million has been earmarked in the new state budget. I want to express my deepest appreciation to our state representatives on behalf of so many residents who were impacted."

The mayor also voiced appreciation to the Middlesex County Board of Commissioners, led by Chairman Ronald G. Rios, who underscored the need for flood mitigation at Rossmoor.

The mayor said the funding will be provided to the Rossmoor Homeowners Association during this budget year, which extends to June 30, 2023. It is not yet clear when the funding will be provided.

"This grant is a positive step forward, helping us make improvements to control flooding," said Dan Jolly, president of the Rossmoor Homeowners Association. "On behalf of our residents, I would like to express my appreciation to Mayor Dalina, the 14th district legislators and Middlesex County for their steadfast commitment to the people of our community." ■

It's Electric! Monroe to Use State Grant to Buy EV Cars

The Township will soon be welcoming its first electric car to the municipal fleet.

Taking advantage of grants from the state Board of Public Utilities, the Township is poised to purchase the first electric car in this current budget year. The second vehicle will be purchased next year. The state program will provide funding toward the purchase of the two vehicles as well as the purchase and installation of an electric charging station for municipal use.

"There's no doubt that electric cars are the future; it is time for Monroe to begin transitioning its fleet," said Mayor Dalina. "Electric cars run on clean energy and are easier to maintain than traditional gasoline-powered vehicles. Moreover, with the current price of fuel and the instability in the global oil markets, it makes sense for us to steadily move toward electric power, which is reliable and relatively cheaper."

Funding will be provided through the state's "Clean Fleet" program, designed to incentivize municipalities, counties, universities and utilities to transition to electric cars. Monroe is taking advantage of a $1.48 million round of state funding of which $520,000 is earmarked for vehicle discounts and $965,000 will fund new charger stations. ■

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1:00 PM Mayor Dalina Ribbon Cutting
2:30 PM Time of Remembrance

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